Scan Type Volume Story

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Exposed Hearts

MIRI!
I'll never ever be in a relationship again!
short
KANNA... MY NAME IS PRONOUNCED MISATO, NOT MIRI!
WHO CARES? BOTH PRONUNCIATIONS ARE FINE!
YOU'RE PRETTY 'MINI' ANYWAY.*
Aren't you only 146 cm tall?
GEEZ! MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER TO MARK MY NAME OFF IN CLASS THIS AFTERNOON!
'CAUSE I'M GOING ON A DATE.
Ka-ching
HM.
IT'S 2,300 YEN* ALTOGETHER, RIGHT? I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY NOW.
ALSO, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO WRITE MY REPORT FOR ME.
Personality is more important than appearance.
I'm sick of hearing lies like that!
*around $30

YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING SO HARD! ARE YOU FOR SAVING UP FOR SOMETHING?
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WELL EITHER
REALLY? I'M FINE.
Just a bit tired
PRICES
Marking names off in class - any age/gender accepted 500 yen/class
Writing Reports - within 5 pages 2000 yen
THANKS FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH ME. REMEMBER TO COME BY OFTEN!
I'M JUST PLANNING AHEAD FOR WHEN I GET OLDER.
SINCE I DIDN'T PAY THE NATIONAL PENSION ON TIME,
I'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK HARD AND SAVE UP WHILE I'M STILL YOUNG!
Three years ago, in the summer of my second year of high school, I was faced with reality.
Six people to mark off... Three reports to write...
It should be okay
And then I need go to work later tonight...
Hmm?
SEMPAI! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY ARE YOU BREAKING UP WITH ME?
...YOU'RE SUCH AN ANNOYING GIRL!
Can't take it anymore!

And to even tell me that I'm flat-chested and unfeminine
But even now, I'm still the same
I want to live out my life alone...
To males, appearance is everything!
IT'S BECAUSE KIHARA FROM CLASS B CONFESSED TO ME. NOT ONLY DOES SHE HAVE A BIG CHEST, SHE'S ALSO REAL PRETTY.
HOW CAN A GIRL LIKE YOU WITH A PRIMARY SCHOOL KID'S BODY COMPARE WITH THAT?!
EVERY TIME WE HUG, I FEEL LIKE I'M HUGGING A GUY! IT'S GROSS!
Whatever you can pretend I was volunteering for you or something.

Huh?
SUDDENLY
UM... ER... I...
WHO ARE YOU?!
...DON'T MOVE.

IF YOU START MOVING AROUND SO MUCH,
YOU'LL FAINT AGAIN.
Ba-thump
Faint...?
What's happening...? This sweet scent is relaxing...
pat
Oh, yeah! I didn't get any sleep last night because I had to finish a whole pile of reports
I didn't have any time for breakfast, either..
Ba-thump
HERE,
TAKE THIS TO EAT

This person...
Here...
TAKE IT.
is incredibly tall —...
Come to think of it, he's... he is way too big!!!
He's taller than 180 cm... Maybe he's around 185 cm?
HEY...
WAIT A SECOND!
Why would a guy like him...
be carrying chocolate around?!
Weird...
Chocolate
But wow
To think that I got some sweets from a stranger...
White Cat Bullying Survivor

But then, he have seen me as a little kid.
RIGHT, SHE IS—
...I KNOW ALREADY. SHE'S MISAKI IKURA.
HMM? YOU KNOW EACH OTHER? THEN I'LL HAND HIM OVER TO YOU.
Teach him well!
Ah!
This guy is the same one as before!
MANAGER, WHERE DID THIS SUSPICIOUS GUY SUDDENLY COME FROM?!
Oh
HE JUST STARTED WORKING HERE TODAY. HE GOES BY KEISUKE YANAGITA.
I THINK HE'S OLDER THAN YOU BY A YEAR?
Because he wanted to do some labor at the end of the year.
HANG ON! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
EVEN IF WE GO TO THE SAME UNI, IT'S WEIRD!
WE'RE IN DIFFERENT YEAR LEVELS, AND ONLY JUST MET TODAY, RIGHT?

IT'S BECAUSE..
I ONCE ASKED YOU TO MARK MY NAME OFF AND AT THAT TIME, ONLY YOU KNEW MY NAME.
HEY, DON'T IGNORE ME! SAY SOMETHING!
Whoosh
lift
I HAVE SO MANY CUSTOMERS THAT I DON'T REMEMBER ANY NAMES OTHER THAN THE REGULARS...
NO WAY... I DON'T REMEMBER THAT AT ALL...
When was this?
HEY!
DON'T STEAL MY WORK!
EVEN THOUGH I LOOK SMALL, I'M ACTUALLY REALLY STRONG!
I can do more than you!

...BUT,
YOU'RE A GIRL.
Eh?
Just then..
I heard an impossible sentence.
MAYBE I... MISHEARD?
I've always been called 'ochibi-chan'*, 'little boy' or just 'kid'!
*TN: term that's something like 'little one'
Over these past few years, I've never been seen as a girl...
DO YOU WANT SOME CHOCOLATE?

Hmm?
Is he saying that...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T JUST SEE ME AS A LITTLE KID?!
...SEE YOU AS A LITTLE KID?
Then,
he really does see me as a girl?
CHOCOLATE CAN HELP WITH...
...DEALING FATIGUE AND ANEMIA
UMM... ABOUT THAT...

THANK YOU!!
...WHAT FOR?
What a strange guy!
But he makes me smile and all warm inside.
Monday, Thursday, Friday.. three times a week.
Tuesday & Wednesday Convenience Store
Weekends: Family Restaurant
A job that was only appealing for its salary...
Ba-thump
BUT DON'T DO MY WORK FOR ME!
YOU SHOULD BE ORGANIZING THE STOCK FROM KITAMACHI!
Ba-thump

has become a sweet way of passing time...!!
HERE.
DO YOU... ALWAYS HAVE CHOCOLATE ON YOU?
THAT'S PRETTY RARE FOR GUYS!
A lot of girls do it though...
OFFERS
JUST TAKE IT.
Is he... embarrassed?
CHOCOLATE TASTES GOOD, AND IT HELPS IF YOU'RE TIRED!

He's just...
...SO CUTE.
quietly
He was totally being headstrong just then!
don't
DON'T CALL ME CUTE!
I CAN'T HELP LIKING SWEETS A LOT!
Ah!
Blush
So fun to tease!
And now he's feeling awkward...
You can totally read him like a book!
Should we say that he's just a straightforward guy?
Teehee!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT!
YOU SEEM LIKE A CONFIDENT AND OUTSPOKEN GUY...
NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS WOULD THINK!

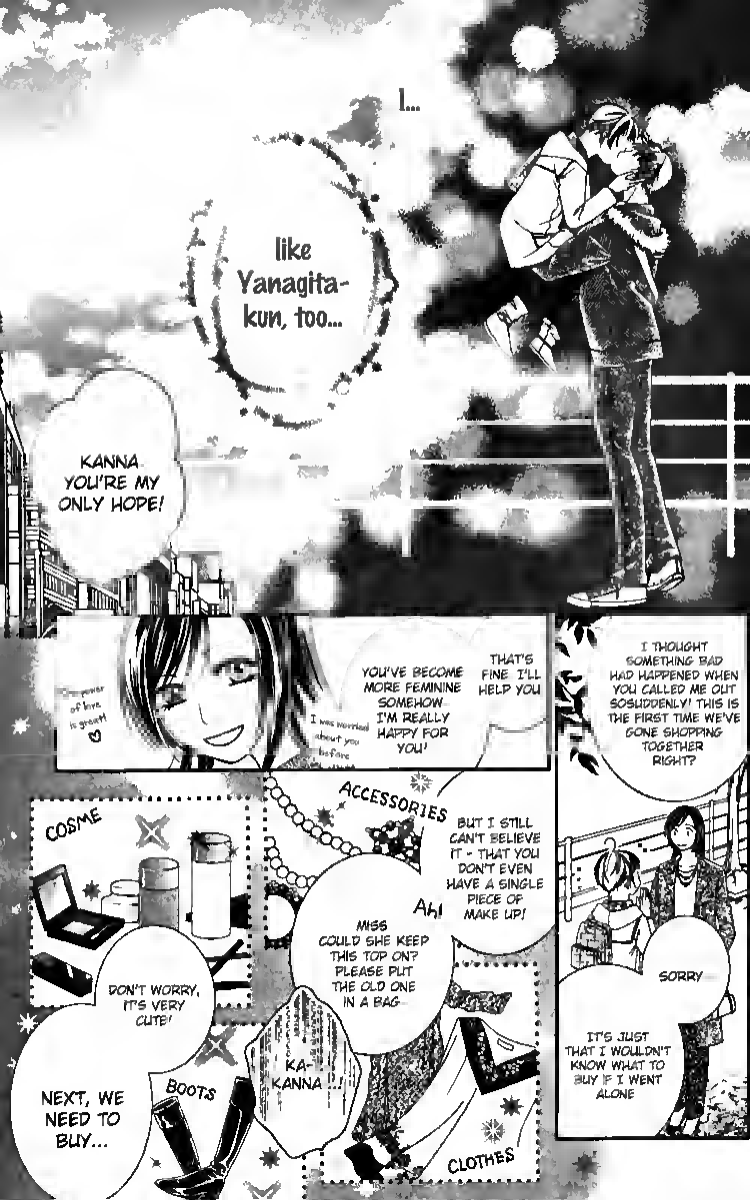
ENOUGH! EAT CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF LAUGHING!
YOU WERE BUSY DOING REPORTS AT LUNCH SO YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU'LL FAINT AGAIN!
—I was wrong!
THANKS
ITADAKI-MASU*
He's actually worried about me.
*Japanese phrase often said before eating
Ba-dum!
...AH!
I thought that...
Ba-dum!
Ba-dum!

I'd never be in another relationship...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
I WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED YOU FROM AFAR BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.
These simple words...
leave a lovely sweetness in my heart.
NEXT TIME, I'LL BE THERE TO CATCH YOU IF YOU FAINT!
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
SO,
try to...
Can I...
trust this person?

ARE YOU GOING HOME TOGETHER?
IT'S BECAUSE WE LIVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION
So it's convenience...
THANK GOODNESS!
I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED THAT MIGATO-CHAN WOULD GET ABDUCTED BY A CHILD KIDNAPPER!
The reunion one dangerous thing three days
BUT WHEN YOU STAND TOGETHER,
YOU LOOK LIKE CLOSE SIBLINGS!
...And even saying that I could get abducted... How did does he think I am!?
Siblings...?!
NOPE,
WE'RE - CLOSE LOVERS.
EH?

Yanagita-kun...
Ba-dump
I CAN'T DO THIS!
NO!
.....
I...DIDN'T PROPERLY CONSIDER WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GOOD GIRLFRIEND...
ALSO, WE LOOK MISMATCHED TOGETHER...
OUR HEIGHTS ARE SO DIFFERENT THAT HOLDING HANDS OR KISSING WOULD BE HARD...
I'm scared!
RELAX.
If I stay by his side...
overly bent arm
Road sign
~~Watch out for child kidnappers~~
For pedestrian use only

I...
I JUST NEED TO DO THIS AND IT'LL ALL BE FINE!
OR IS IT THAT...
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME?
...IT'S NOT THAT.


I...
like Yanagita-kun, too...
KANNA YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!
The power of love is great!
I was worried about you before
YOU'VE BECOME MORE FEMININE SOMEHOW I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU!
THAT'S FINE I'LL HELP YOU
I THOUGHT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED WHEN YOU CALLED ME OUT SOSUDDENLY! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE GONE SHOPPING TOGETHER RIGHT?
SORRY
IT'S JUST THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO BUY IF I WENT ALONE
COSME
ACCESSORIES
BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT - THAT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE PIECE OF MAKE UP!
Ah!
MISS COULD SHE KEEP THIS TOP ON? PLEASE PUT THE OLD ONE IN A BAG
DON'T WORRY, IT'S VERY CUTE!
KA-KANNA
CLOTHES
NEXT, WE NEED TO BUY...
BOOTS

Ayayayayaya !!!!
AND SOME BRA INSERTS
AN ENTICING SET OF UNDERWEAR
That's right! Just push it up like that
Welcome
HERE, GO TRY THEM ON.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE SHY! BESIDES, GUYS ONLY LOOK AT THE CHEST!
Why Kanna, why...?
WE HAVE TO TRY AND HELP YOU OUT IN THAT AREA!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT MISAKI IS FLAT-CHESTED
Bye bye!
AFTER YOU'VE FIXED UP YOUR SKIN, I'LL TEACH YOU MAKEUP!
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT
MY CHEST
FEELS ITCHY
I'm wearing a bra???
...But...
THANKS, SEE YOU AT UNI TOMORROW!

Even though my outfit makes me look more feminine...
what will happen when I take my clothes off—?
A girl like you with a primary school kid body...
is really gross...
NO!
I don't want...
Yanagita-kun to find out that I'm flat chested!
小泉美容整形外科
How much does it cost?
Will it hurt?
I'm really scared...
HEY!
NO!

Yanagita-kun!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I WENT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE LOOKING FOR YOU, BUT THEY SAID YOU'VE TAKEN THE DAY OFF SICK.
SO I WAS GOING TO DROP BY YOUR PLACE AND SEE HOW YOU WERE..
.....
I CAN'T TELL YOU...!
COSMETIC SURGERY?
WHICH PART ARE YOU OPERATING ON—?
小塚美容整形外科

AH
LET'S LEAVE!
IDIOT! LET ME GO!
PUT ME DOWN
OR I'LL SCREAM FOR HELP!
.....
YOU'RE..
ALREADY VERY CUTE, YOU KNOW?

It's the bra insert from before...
No way...
Why have you brought this again...
It's too embarrassing!!!
.....
Aaaaa
Aaaaa
...IT'S BECAUSE
Aaaaa
NO MATTER WHAT THEY DID, I STILL LOOKED FLAT-CHESTED.
SO THE SHOP ASSISTANT PUT THESE IN FOR ME...
It's already too late to hide it...
BUT EVEN DOING THAT DIDN'T HELP...
POTO
POTO
POTO

—MPH...
BECAUSE I REALLY AM FLAT-CHESTED!!!
I DON'T WANT THE PERSON I LIKE TO SEE THIS KIND OF BODY!
I WAS REALLY SCARED THAT YOU'D HATE ME IF YOU SAW ME LIKE THAT!
SO I...
Saying this kind of stuff will only drive him away further!
I THOUGHT THAT ONLY SURGERY COULD MAKE MY CHEST BIGGER...
I'M SORRY.
—Sed

I DIDN'T REALIZE AT ALL HOW MUCH YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BODY.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR NOT REALIZING WHAT YOU WERE WORRYING ABOUT!
Yanagita-kun...
...WEIRD.
WHY DID YOU THINK THAT I WOULDN'T LIKE SOMEONE FLAT-CHESTED?
...Why on earth was I so worried...?
Is this guy just simple-minded? Or something else...?
I ALREADY KNEW...
THAT YOU WERE FLAT-CHESTED FROM THAT TIME I ASKED YOU TO MARK OFF MY NAME FOR ME IN THE SUMMER OF THAT YEAR...
Since you were a t-shirt that day.

I DIDN'T CONFESS TO YOU TO FORCE YOU INTO ANYTHING.
WATCHING YOUR SLIM BODY RUN AROUND EVERY DAY FOR YOUR WORK...
I CONFESSED TO YOU IN THE HOPE THAT I COULD BE YOUR SANCTUARY!
I TRULY THINK YOU'RE VERY CUTE.
I LIKE EVERY PART OF YOU!
...That's right!

The reason I like Yanagita -kun...
is because he's this kind of person!

RELAX,
LET ME LOOK AT ALL OF YOU.
I'm so embarrassed.
ACTUALLY, I'M ALSO SCARED ABOUT DOING THIS WITH MISATO!
It feels like the first time I'm baring it all...
This is really scary!
I feel like I have to gather up the courage of a whole lifetime to face this!
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, THE THING I WANT MOST RIGHT NOW IS TO BECOME ONE WITH MISATO.
—but...

I TRUST YOU, YANAGITA-KUN.
OKAY...
I want to become one with you as well—
FROM HERE ON IN, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
COME HERE!
biku

This feeling is completely different from the experience three years ago that only left me with pain.
kiss
MMM!
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
kiss
FUU!
Haa
AH...
MMM
Those soft and sweet marks of love...
Haa
make me feel treasured by him .
AH...
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU TRIED SO HARD FOR ME,
BUT IF YOU CAN JUST SHOW ME YOUR BODY WITH NO WORRIES OR FEARS...
is sincere.

THIS...
WOULD MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST!
AH!
ABOUT THAT...

SINCE MY BODY IS SO BIG,
I MIGHT HAVE HURT YOU IF I LOST CONTROL OF MYSELF.
TELL ME! IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, I WANT TO HELP YOU FIGURE THEM OUT TOGETHER.
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT YOU WERE SCARED OF DOING IT WITH ME?
ACTUALLY,
EVEN NOW, I'M TRYING VERY HARD TO CONTROL MYSELF...
What's he like when he loses himself too much?..
Is there a solution to this kind of problem?
<<Exposed Hearts>> *END*

★Exposed Hearts★

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Indulgence

Originally, the subject that my publishers set was, "If I could be with you, I'd want..."
At the start especially I was told by the publisher that this work would be published in an extra publication, but for various reasons they decided on something different. Anyway I was already in the middle of working on this oneshot before I'd even found out the publisher's subject...

Back then, I was constantly in a cold sweat, thinking about what I would do if my story's subject was completely different from my publisher's subject. In the end it was pretty lucky that what I'd drawn and what the publisher wanted were similar.

This story's protagonist, Misato, has actually been inside my mind for a long time. The kanji for her name is 美里 (Misato), but it always gets mispronounced as Miri instead. (And Miri sounds like Mimi...)
It's just that I struggled for a long time to think of a storyline that would suit her and to think of a male protagonist too.
Hence when I finished designing the character of Yanagita-kun I couldn't resist doing a victory pose!
As well as this, this work was the one that got the most letters asking "will this be in the tankoubon?"
It really made me feel warm and fuzzy inside and very happy.

But even with all this, my friends all say about this pairing, "if these two were to try and go to a love hotel, they would be stuck outside because they wouldn't be allowed in..." Maybe it's true...